KODYA...?
THIS DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE WAY BACK.

TROT
TROT

THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S NOT. I HAVE TO RETURN THE FIREBIRD TO HER HOME, REMEMBER?

BUT...
YOU ALREADY FREED THE FIREBIRD, CAN'T SHE FIND HER OWN WAY HOME?

IT'S MY FAULT THAT SHE'S OUT HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE, SO I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING SURE SHE GETS HOME SAFE.

WHAT

WHAT
IF CAPTAIN IRO
COMES LOOKING
FOR ME AND WE'RE

FOR ME AND WE'RE NOT THERE? WE'LL BE STUCK...

MAYBE
THAT'S NOT
SUCH A BAD
THING

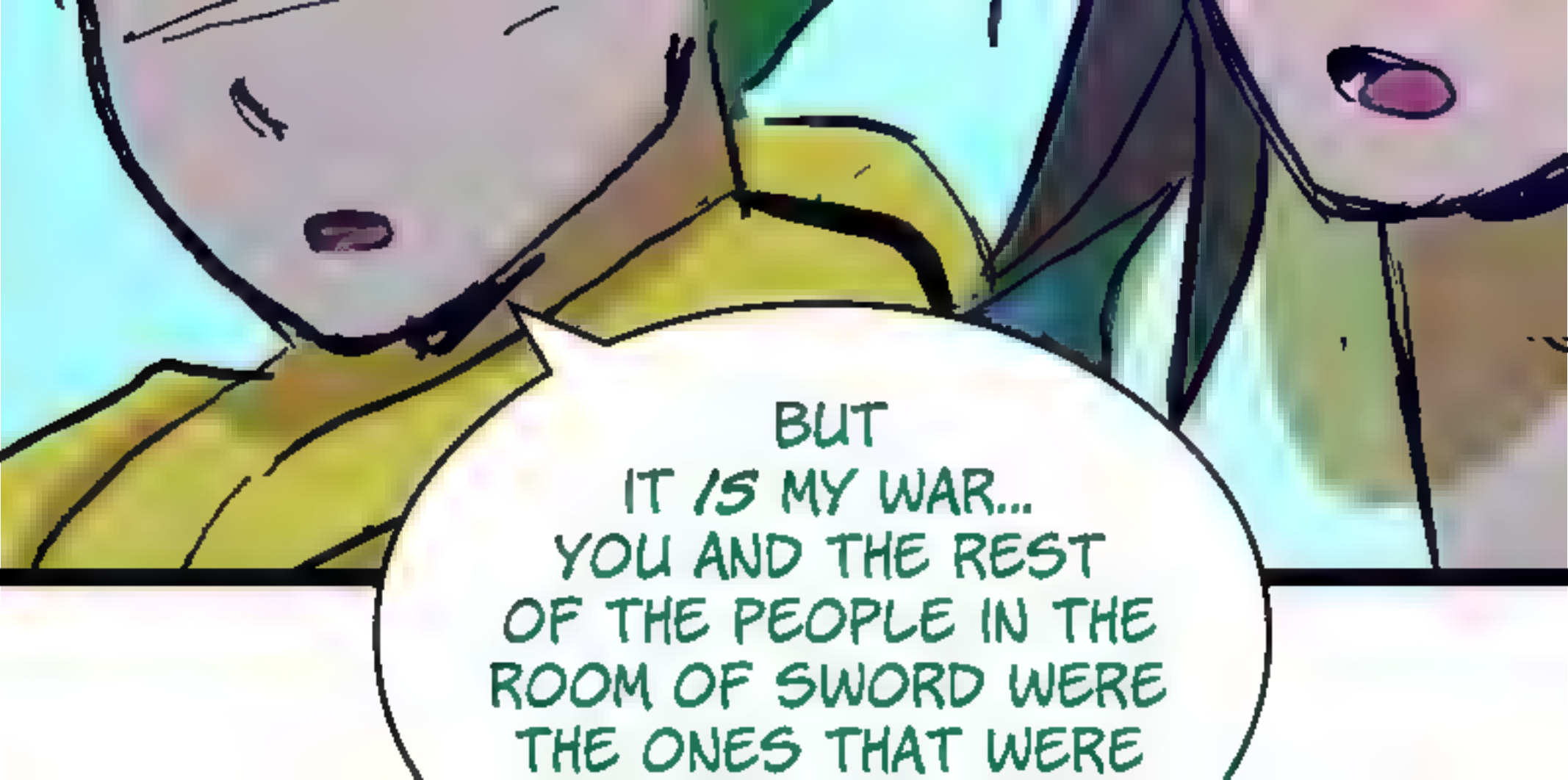
THING.
BUT CAPTAIN IRO NEEDS MY HELP TO FIND THE SWORDS!

REMEMBER
HOW I THOUGHT I
COULD USE THE FIREBIRD
TO WIN A WAR?
WELL NOW I

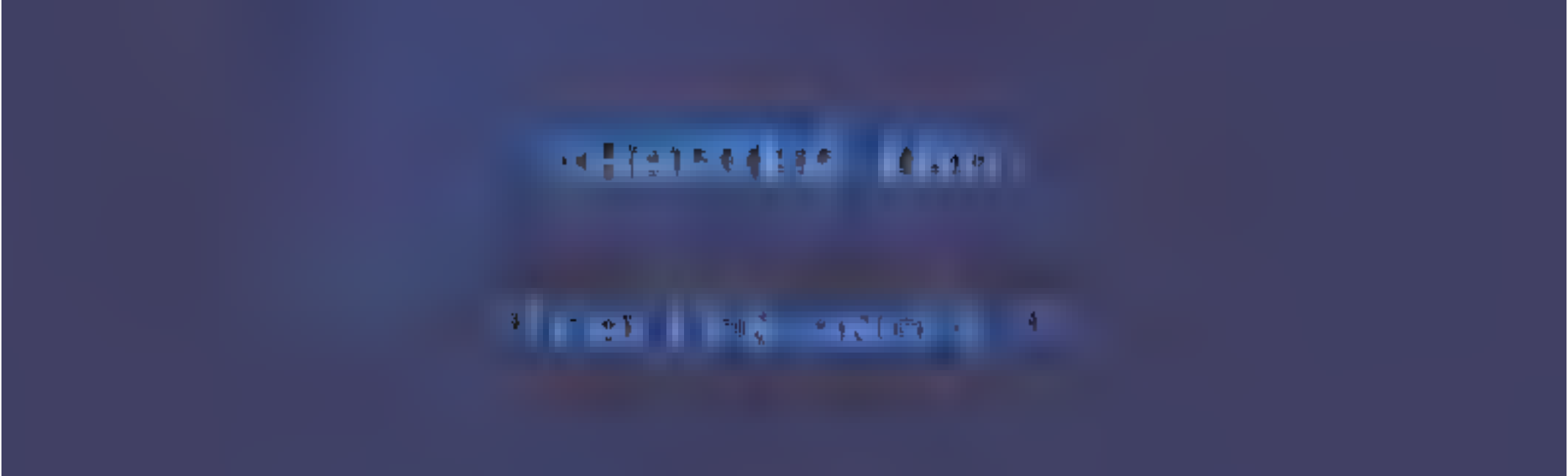
KNOW THAT ONCE YOU GO TO WAR, YOU'VE ALREADY LOST. BECAUSE PEOPLE DON'T *WIN* WARS. THEY ONLY *SURVIVE* THEM.

AND MAYBE

FIREBIRD... AN INNOCENT LIFE BEING USED TO FIGHT SOMEONE ELSE'S WAR THAT CAN'T BE WON. INSTEAD OF BEING ALLOWED TO LIVE A FREE AND FULL LIFE.


BUT
IT *IS* MY WAR...
YOU AND THE REST
OF THE PEOPLE IN THE
ROOM OF SWORD WERE
THE ONES THAT WERE

BEING USED.



CAPTAIN IRO
SAID MASIOSARE
RECRUITED YOU ALL

AS SOLDIERS TO
FIGHT DON.

SO YOU'RE
THE FIREBIRDS!

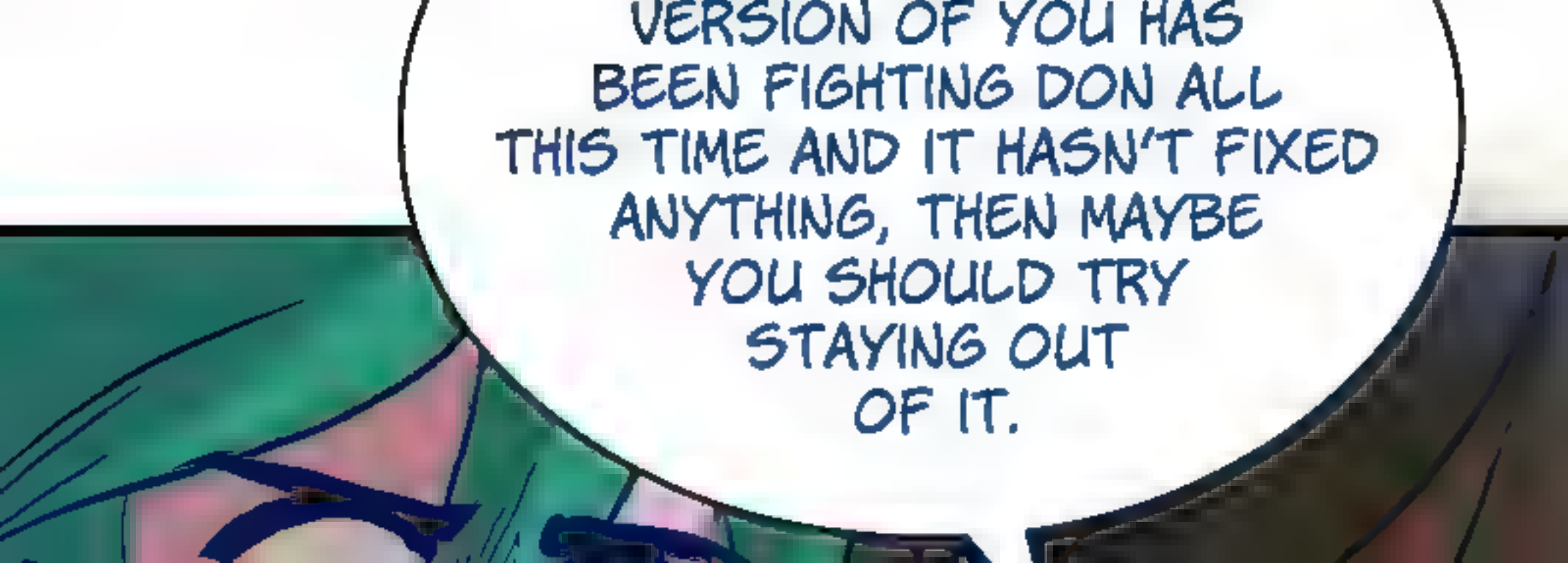
THE FIREBIRDS!
I GOT YOU INTO THIS WAR SO NOW ITS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP YOU SAFE!

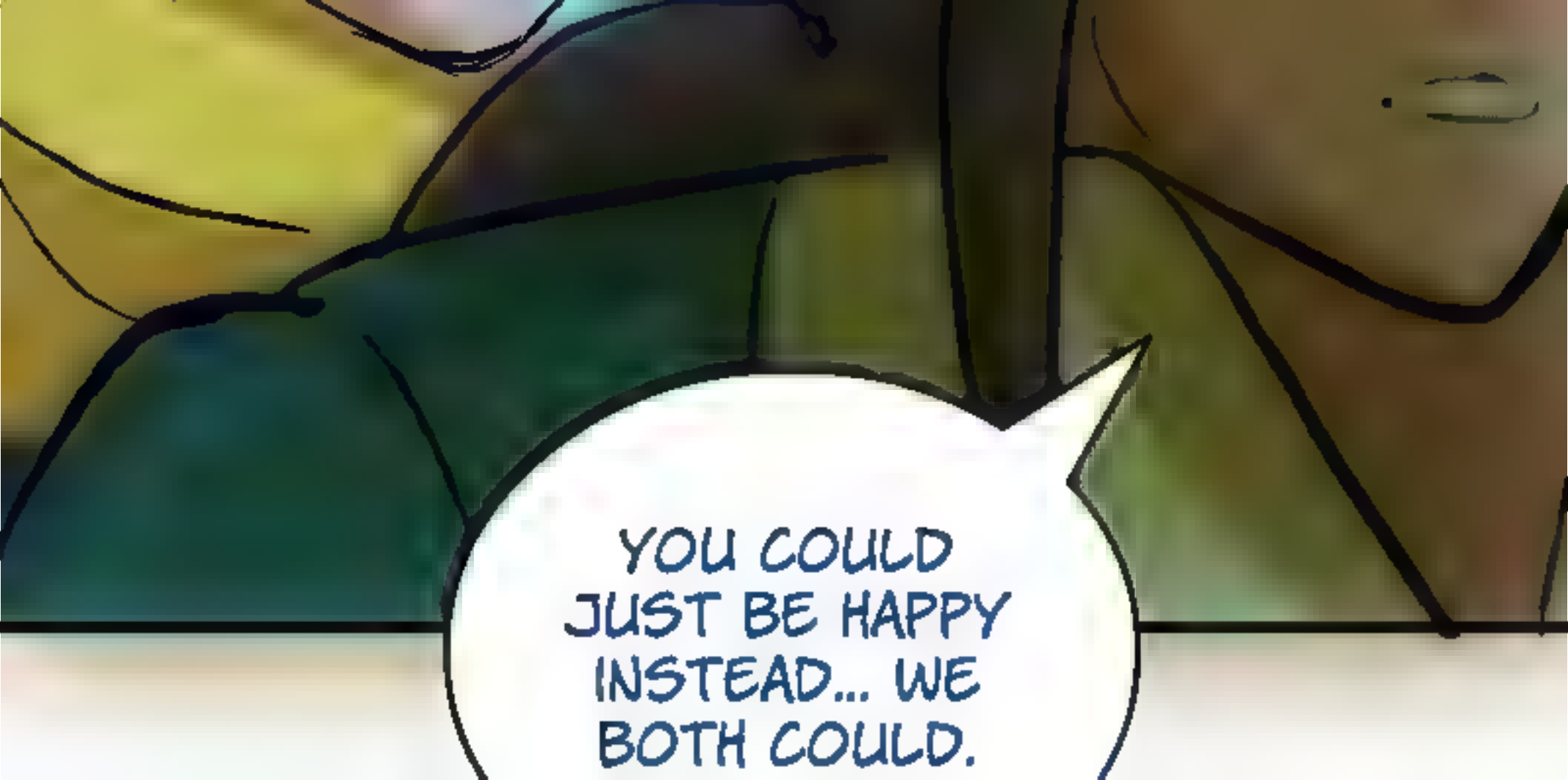
BUT YOU'RE
NOT MASIOSARE,
RIGHT?

WELL NO, BUT--
SO THEN

WHY IS IT YOUR
RESPONSIBILITY?

I'M JUST
SAYING... IF SOME

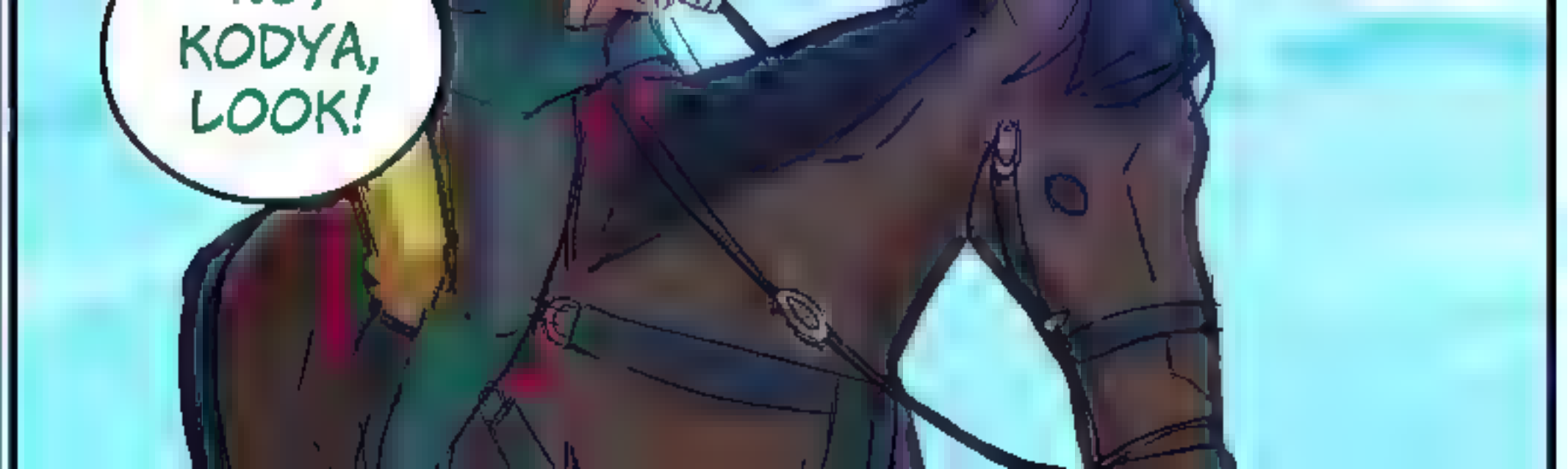

VERSION OF YOU HAS
BEEN FIGHTING DON ALL
THIS TIME AND IT HASN'T FIXED
ANYTHING, THEN MAYBE
YOU SHOULD TRY
STAYING OUT
OF IT.


YOU COULD JUST BE HAPPY INSTEAD... WE BOTH COULD.

DID
YOU HEAR
THAT?

PROBABLY
JUST THE FIREBIRD...

SHE KNOWS WE'RE ALMOST THERE.
NO.

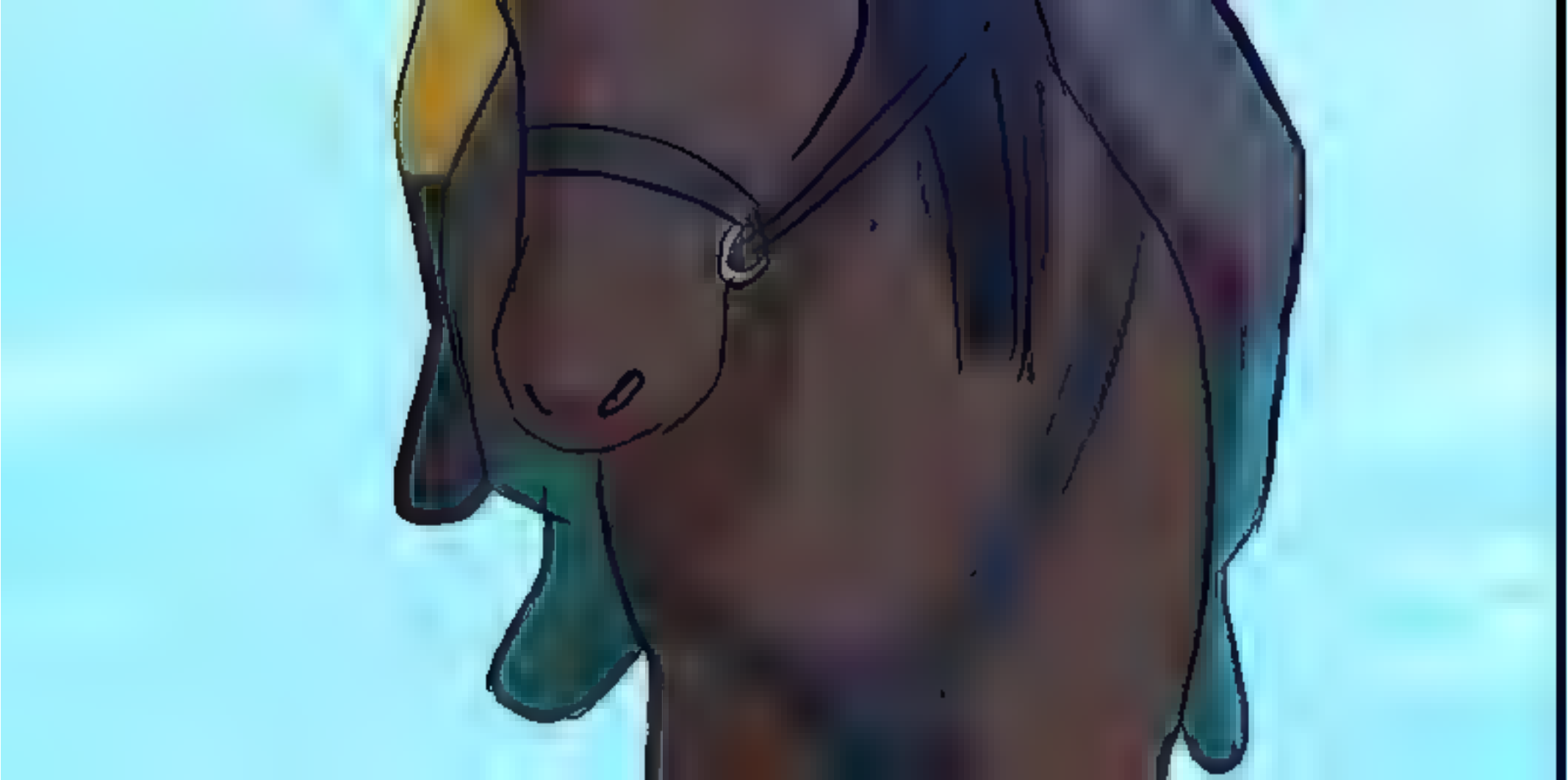

KODYA, LOOK!

IT'S
[REDACTED]!

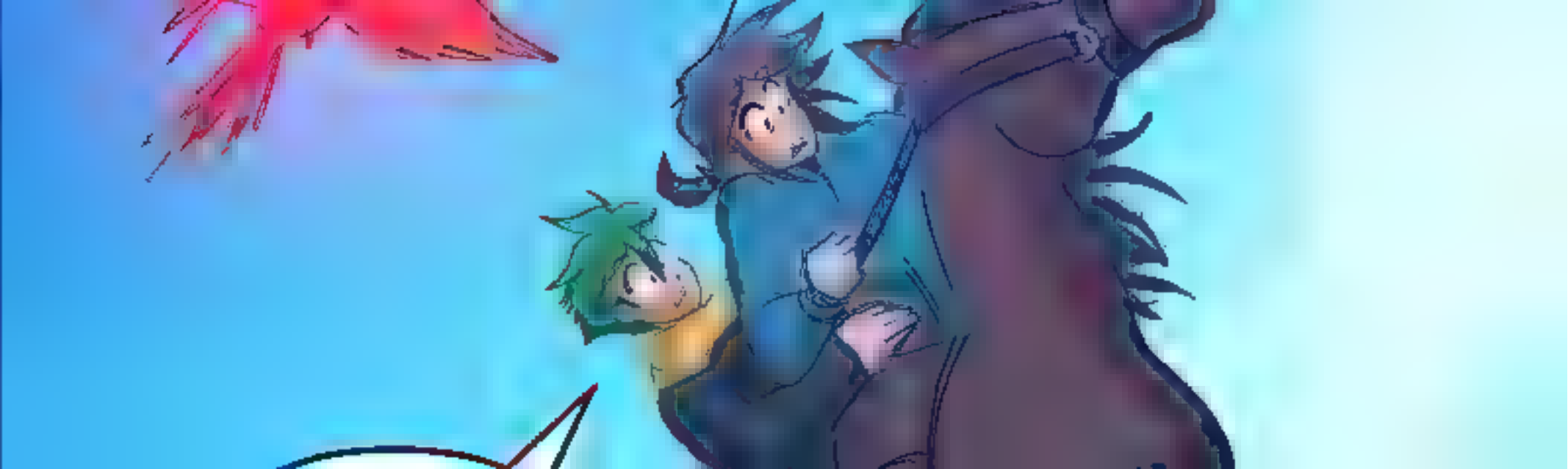
WHO? I DON'T SEE

ANYTHING.
STANDING

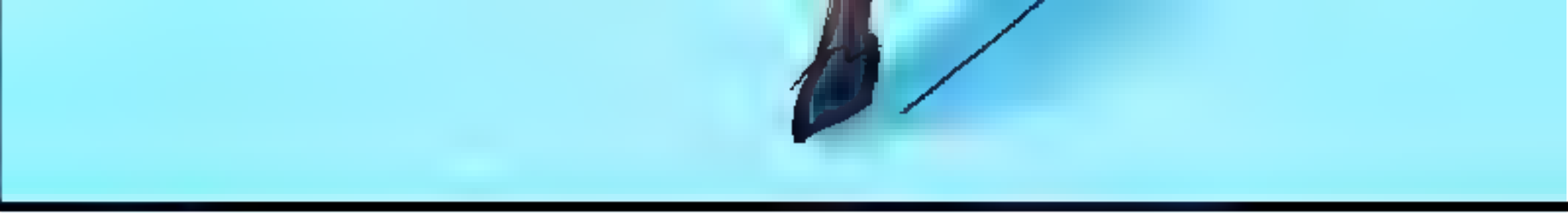
RIGHT OVER THERE--

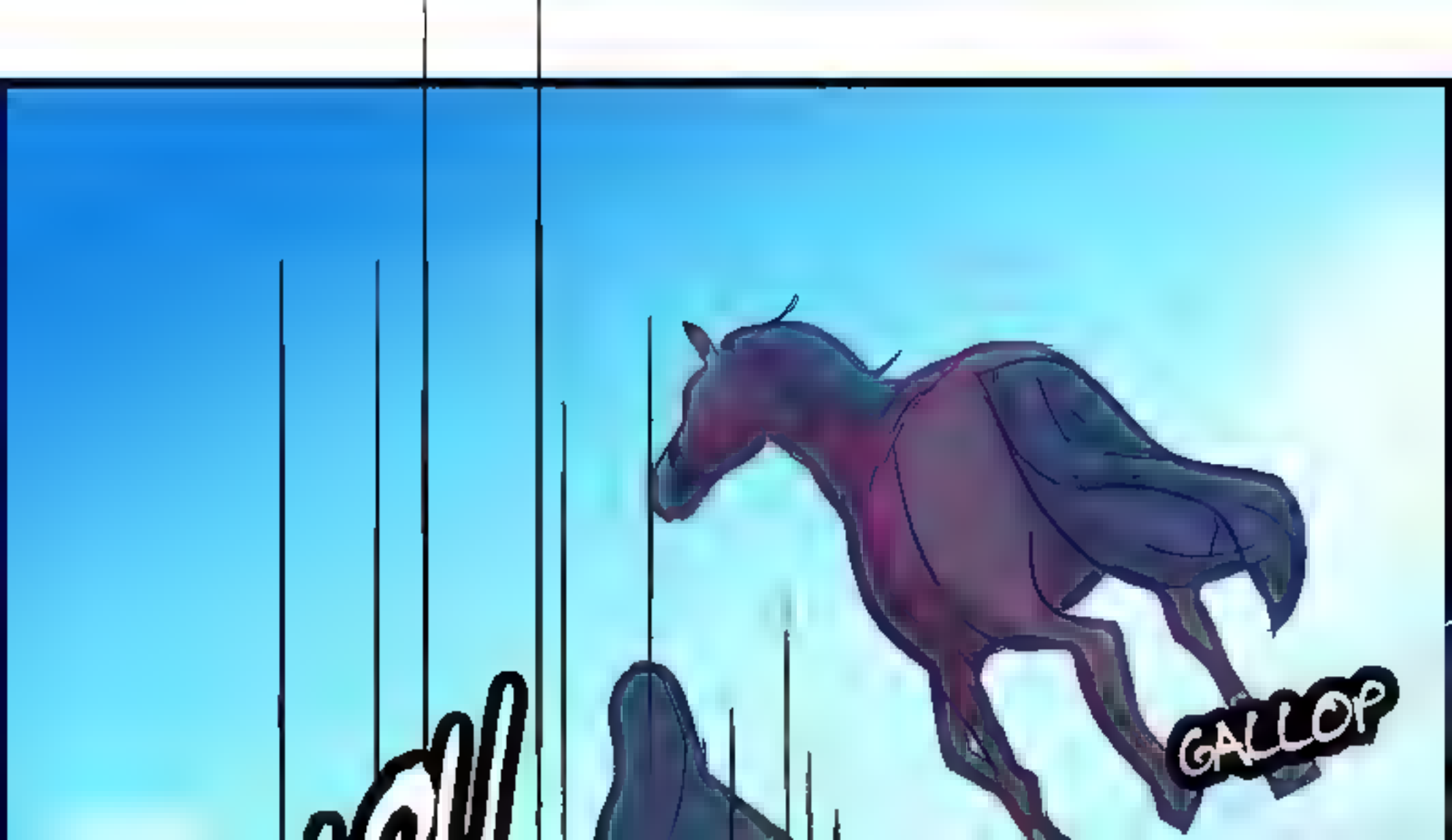


AGH!!



WHAA!

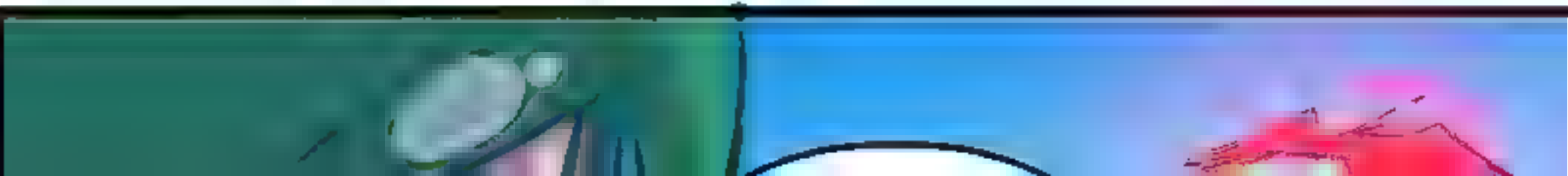



GALLOP

CRASH
GALLOP
GALLOP
KGHH!

KOH!!!

ARE YOU OKAY!?



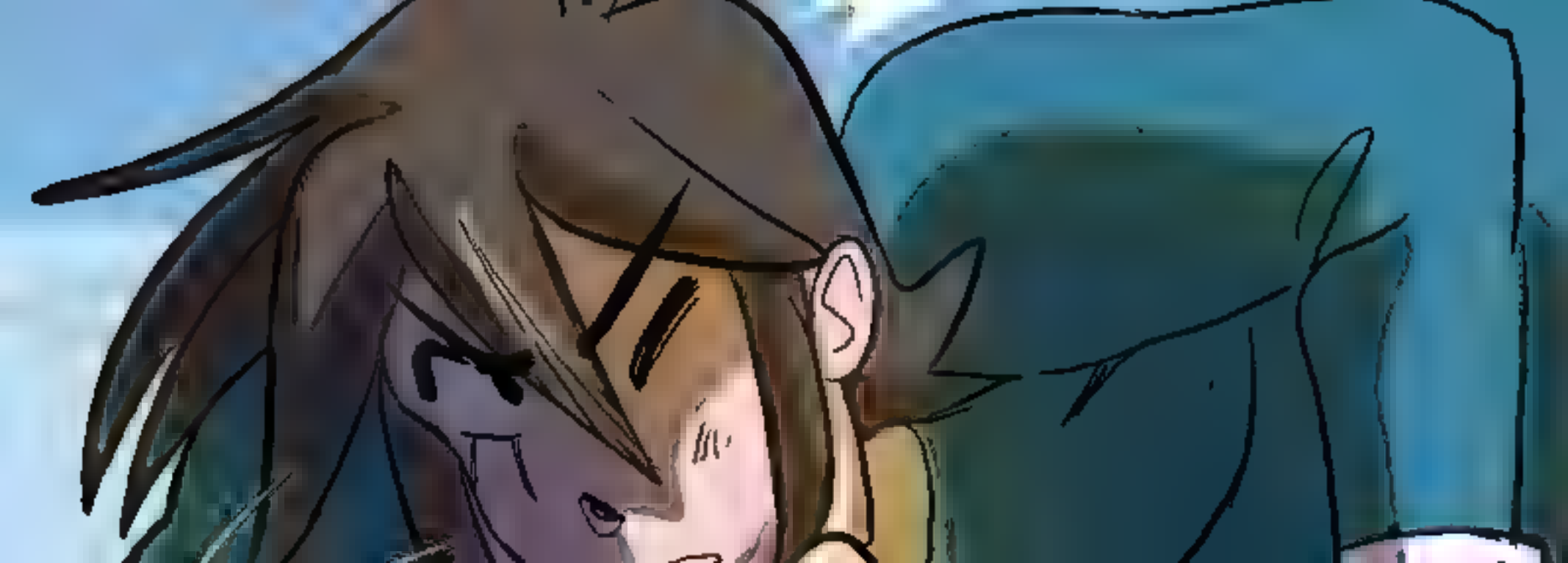
...KODYA!?

KOPYA

WHERE ARE
YOU?!

NGH...

THOR'S HAMMER...



...WHO
ARE YOU?

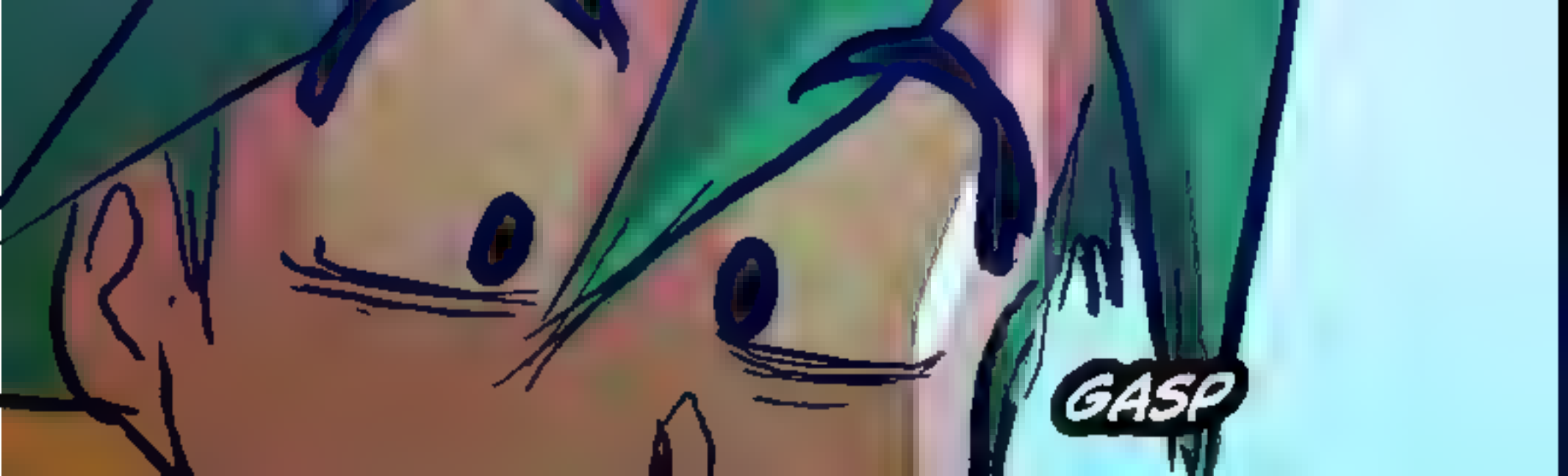
RAGAN

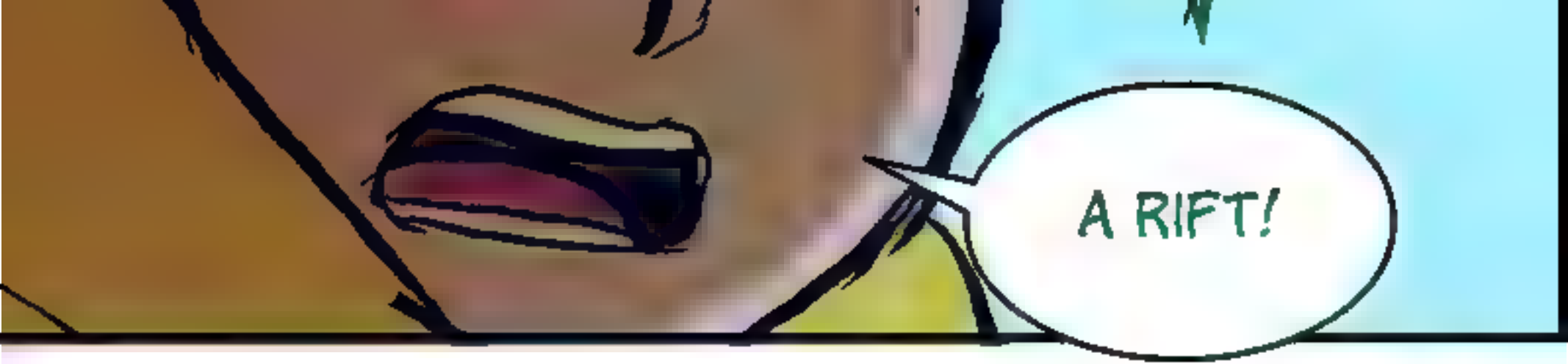
RAGAN!?

TAK

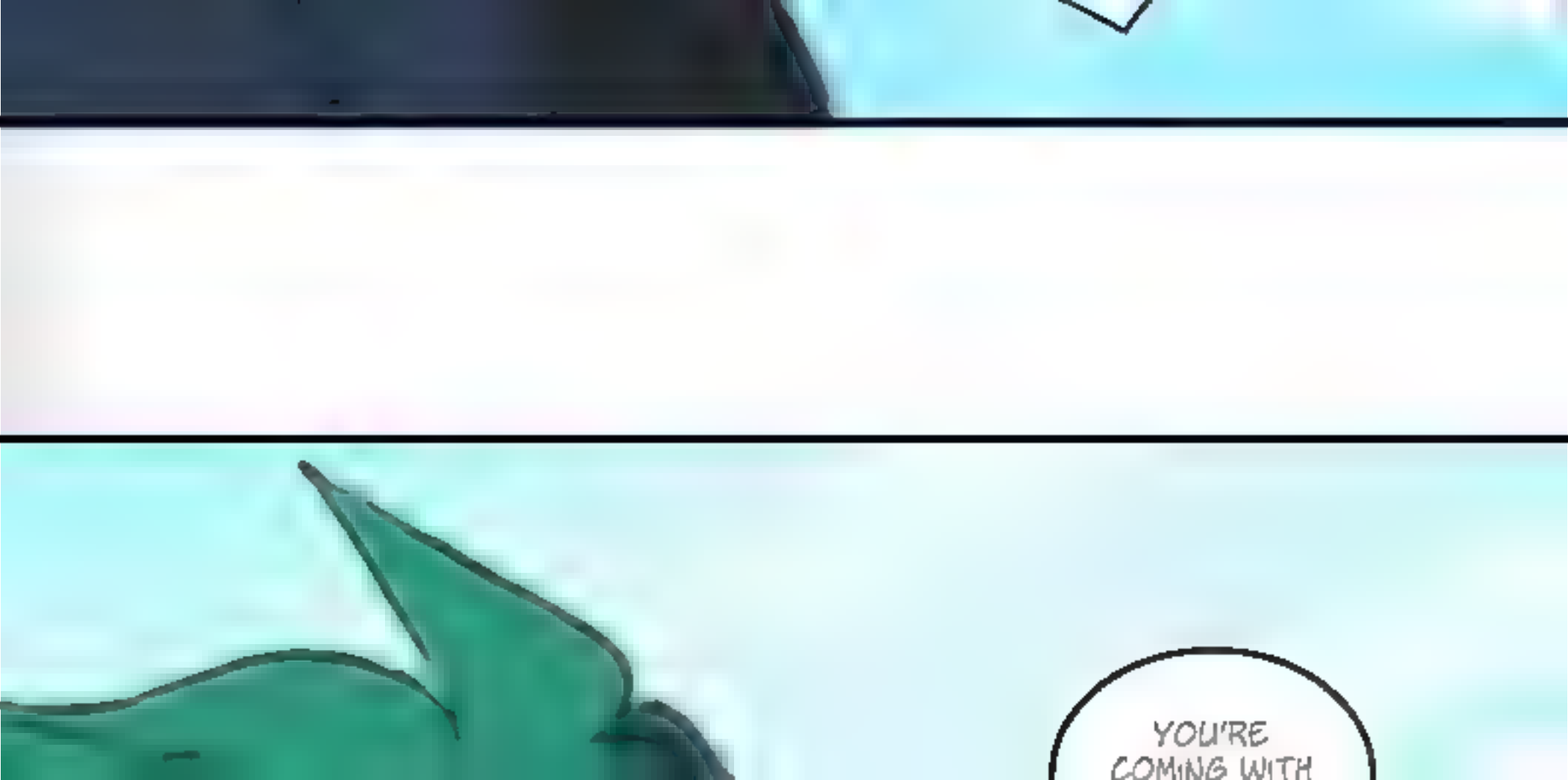
TAK
TAK

HOW
DID YOU GET
IN HERE?


GASP


A RIFT!

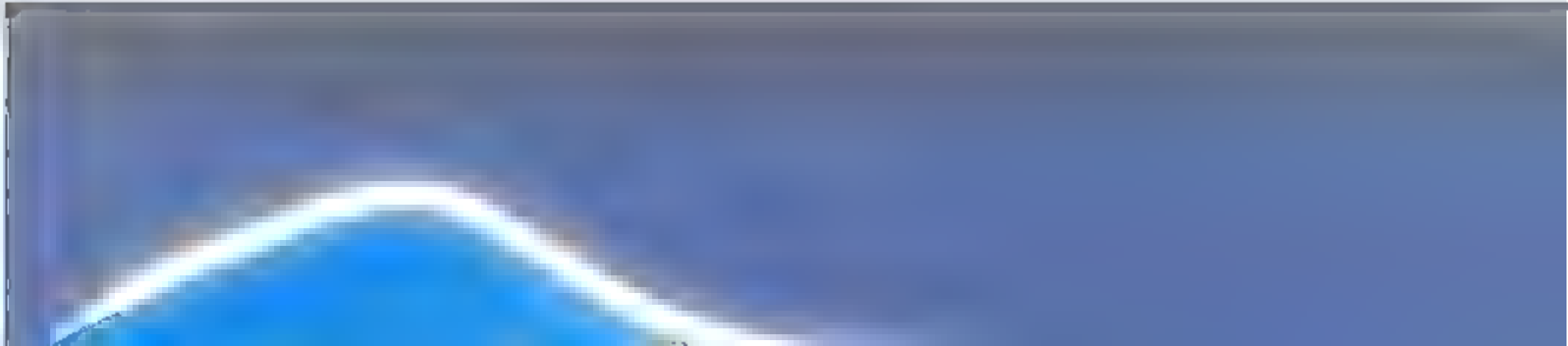
KODYA!!


YOU'RE
COMING WITH

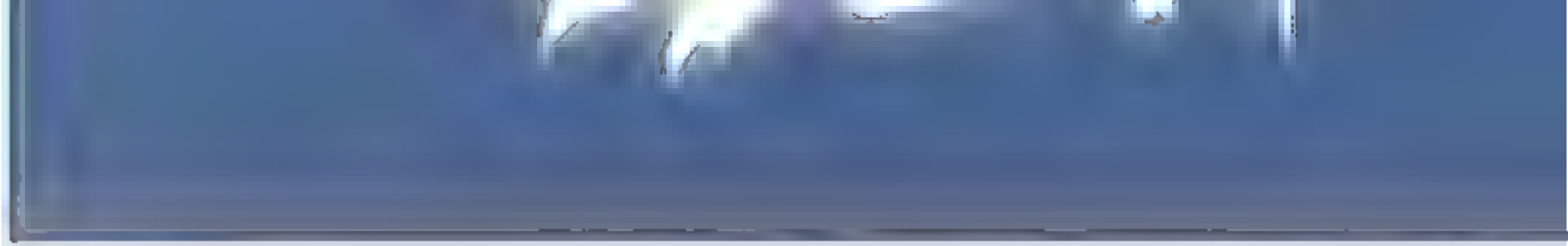
ME, SPY!

ZOOM

RAHAHAHA!



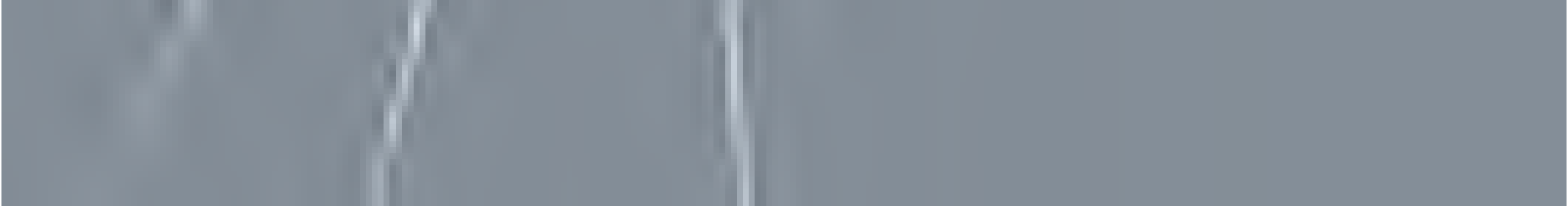
WAIT,
NO!



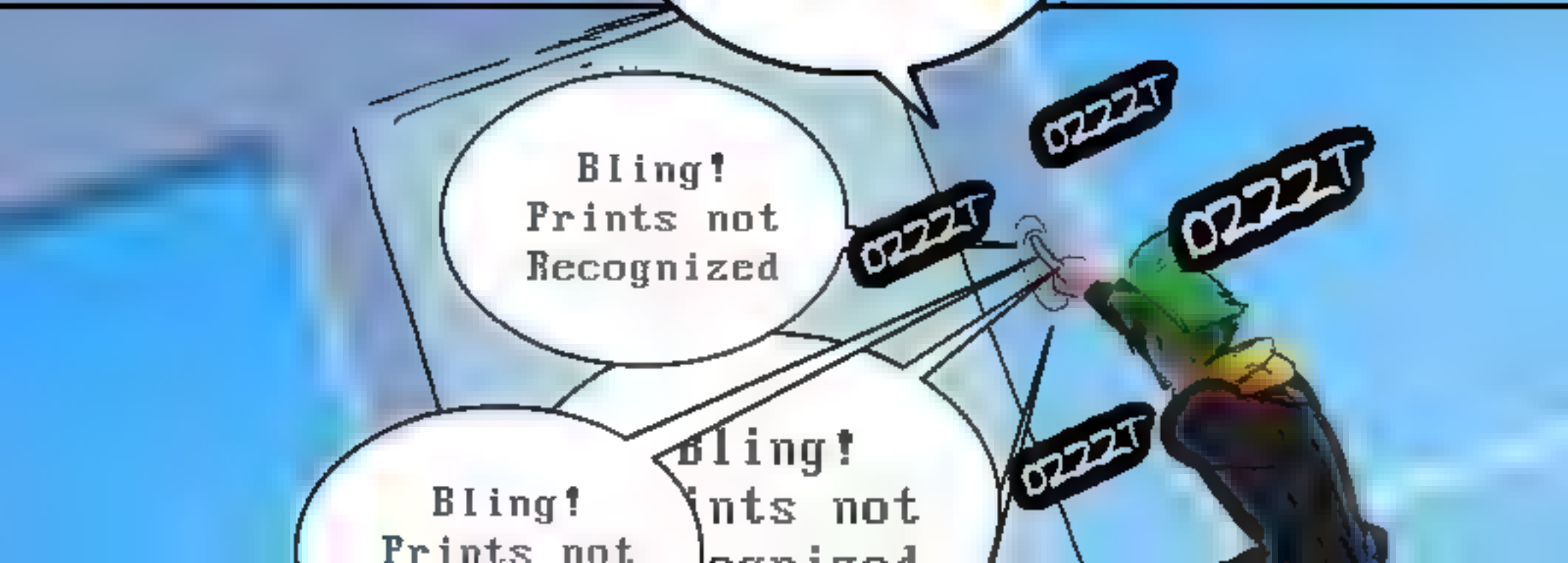
LANO

SLAM

KODYA!!

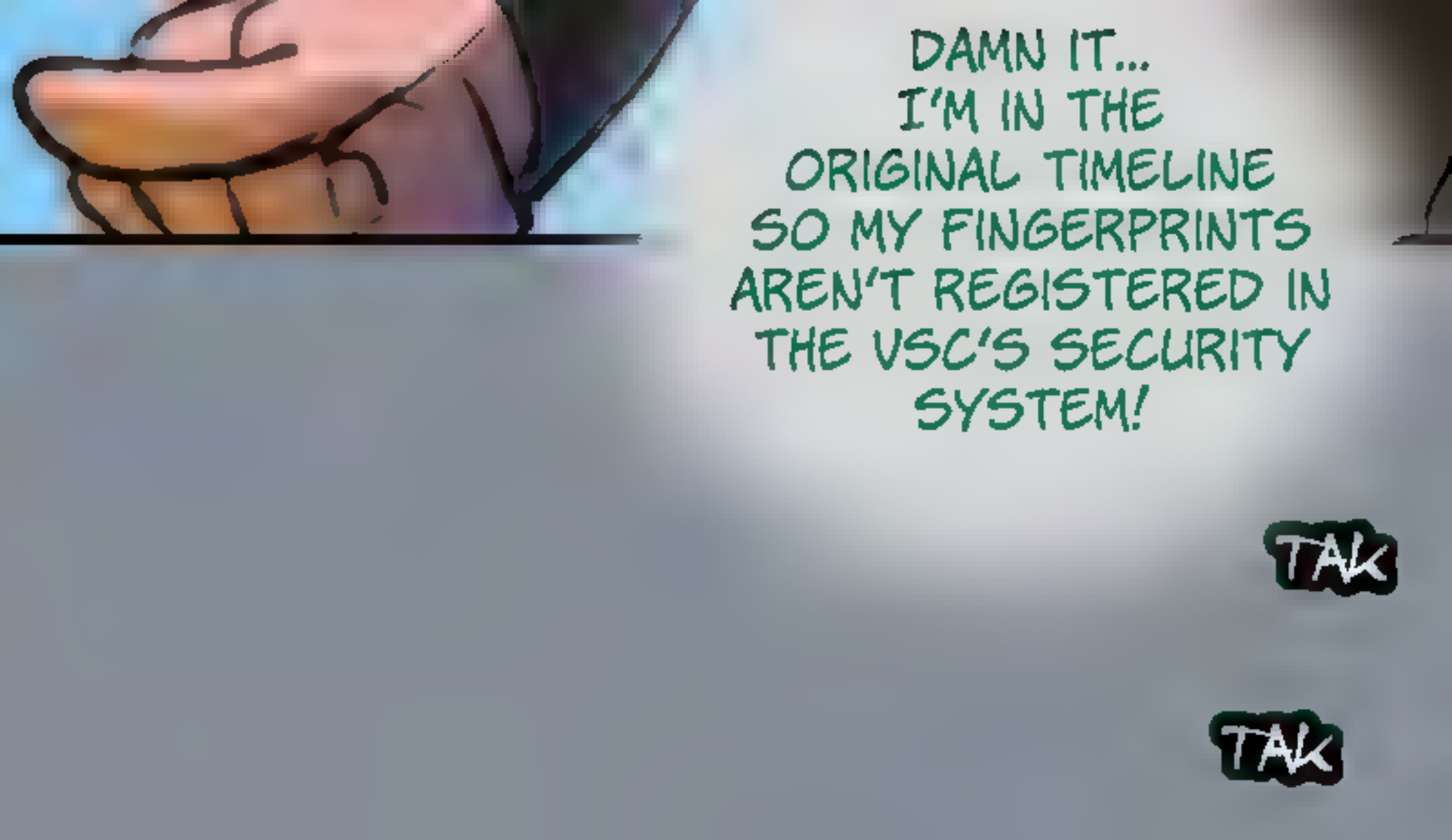


COME
ON, OPEN
UP!


Bling!
Prints not
Recognized
Bling!
Prints not
Recognized
Bling!
nts not
0222
0222
0222
0222

Recognized
ognized
ring!
Prints not
Recognized

Bling!
Too Many
Failed Attempts
Try Again in 10
Minutes


DAMN IT...
I'M IN THE ORIGINAL TIMELINE SO MY FINGERPRINTS AREN'T REGISTERED IN THE VSC'S SECURITY SYSTEM!
TAK
TAK

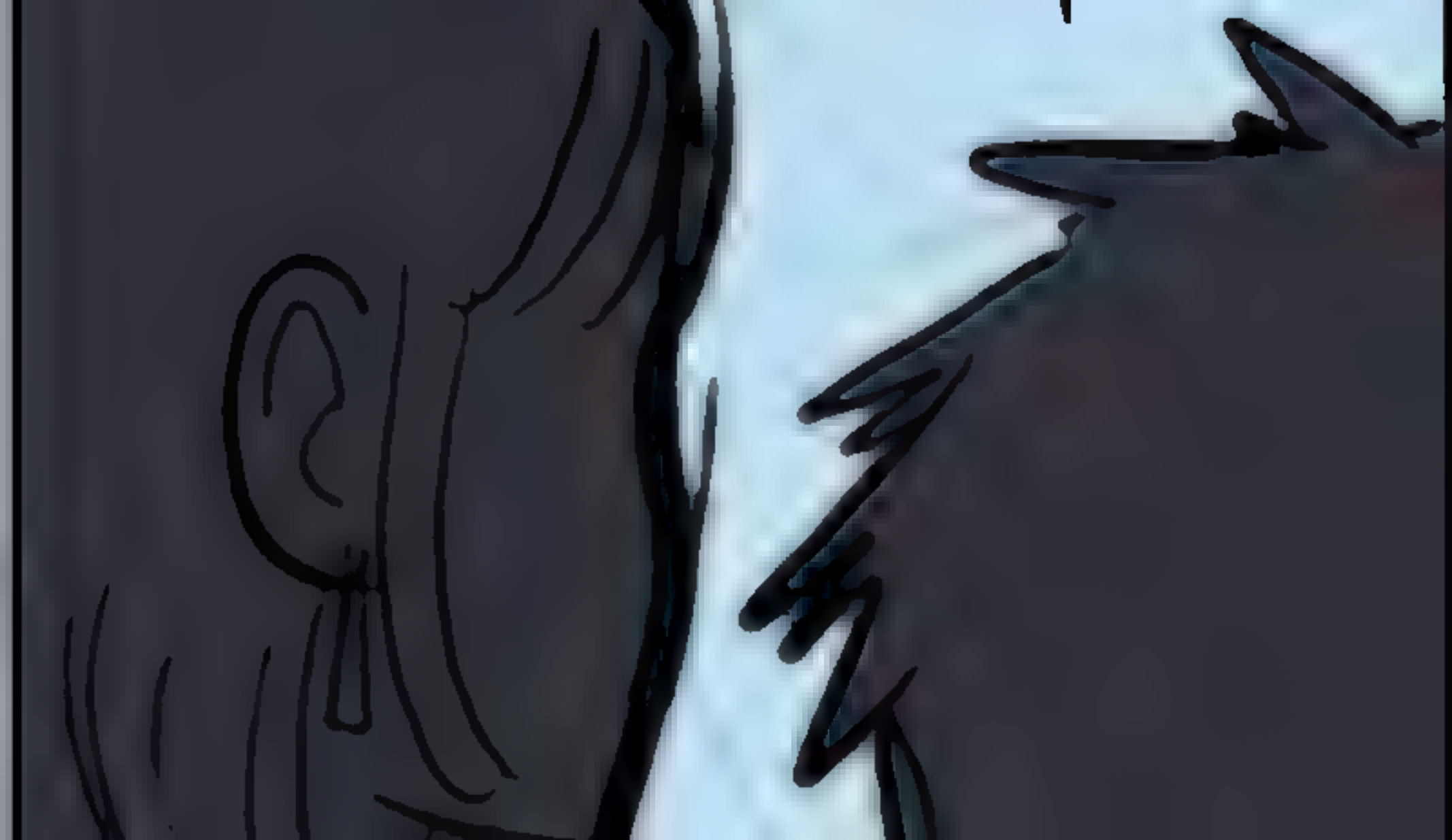
TAK
HEY! WHO'S IN HERE?!

THIS ROOM

IS FOR FIRST AND
SECOND CLASS
OFFICERS
ONLY!

YOU HEARD ME, TATUM AND

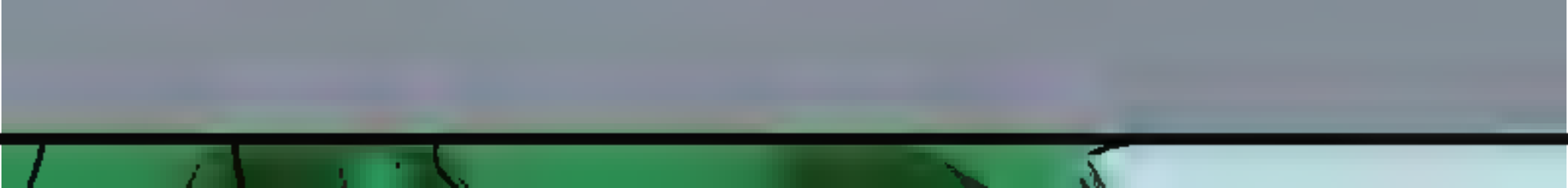
JELANI! THE JOKE'S OVER. COME ON OUT.



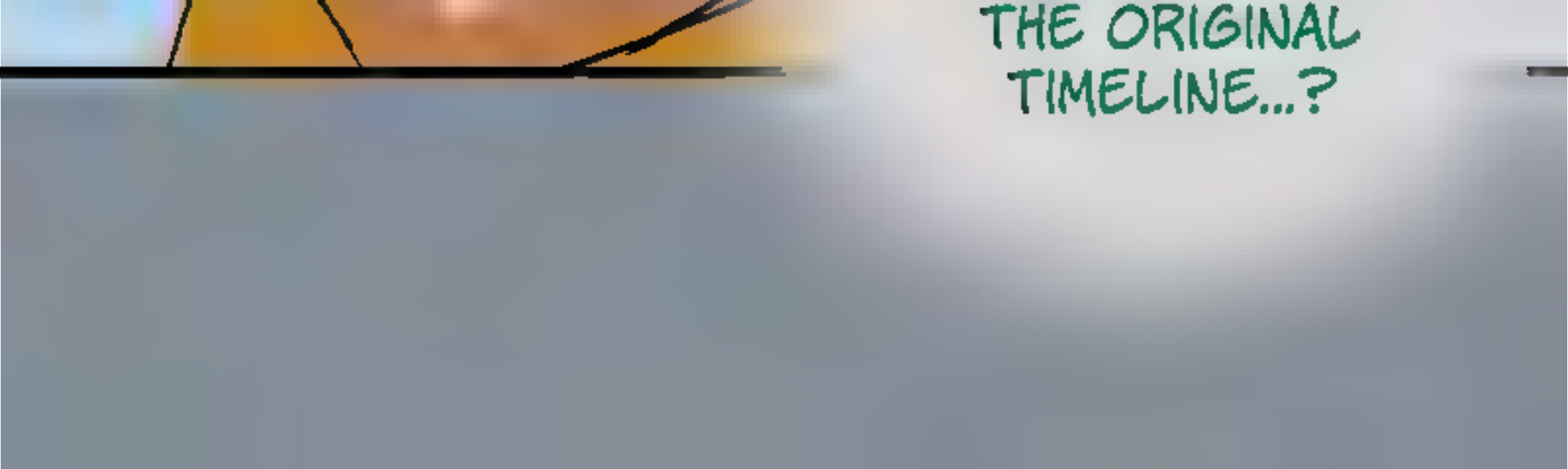
FEATHER
TATUM AND ANAN

JELANI? SOUNDS LIKE THEY WERE TROUBLE MAKERS IN THIS TIMELINE TOO...

BUT WAIT...
IF THEY'RE HERE,
THEN WHY DIDN'T MY
FINGERPRINTS WORK?
IF MASIOSARE WAS THE
ONE WHO RECRUITED
EVERYONE, THEN HE
MUST WORK
HERE...

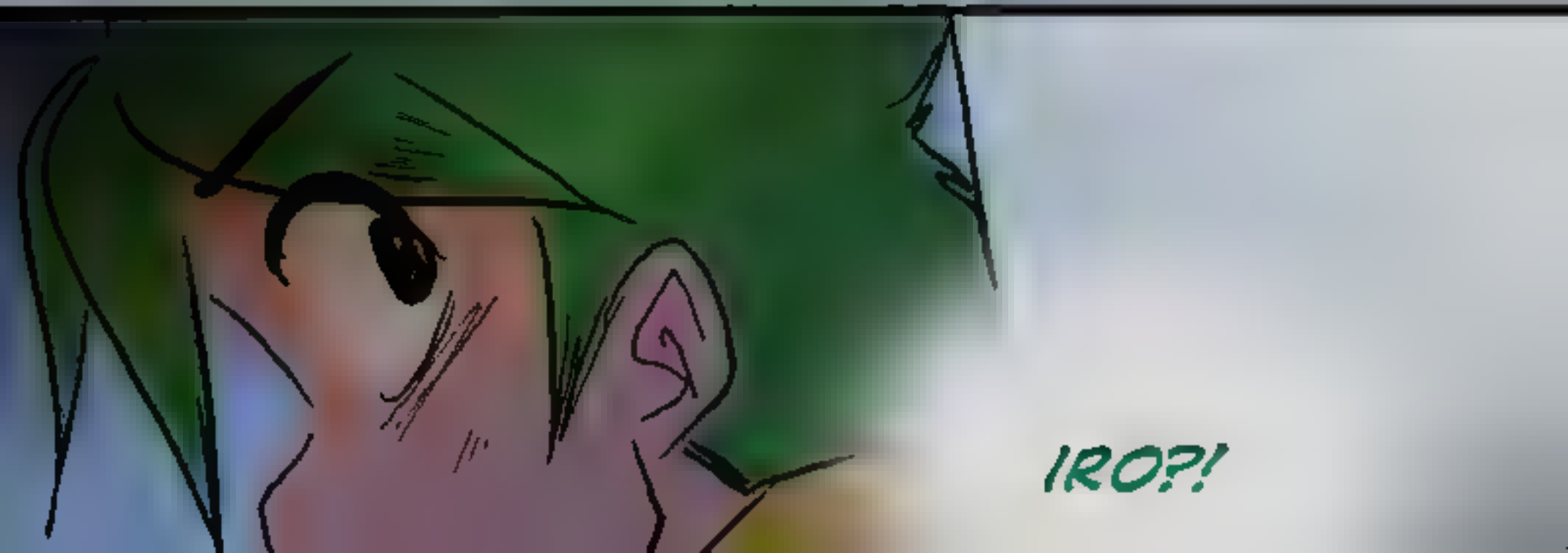


UNLESS...
THEY WERE
RECRUITED BY
SOMEONE ELSE IN


THE ORIGINAL
TIMELINE...?

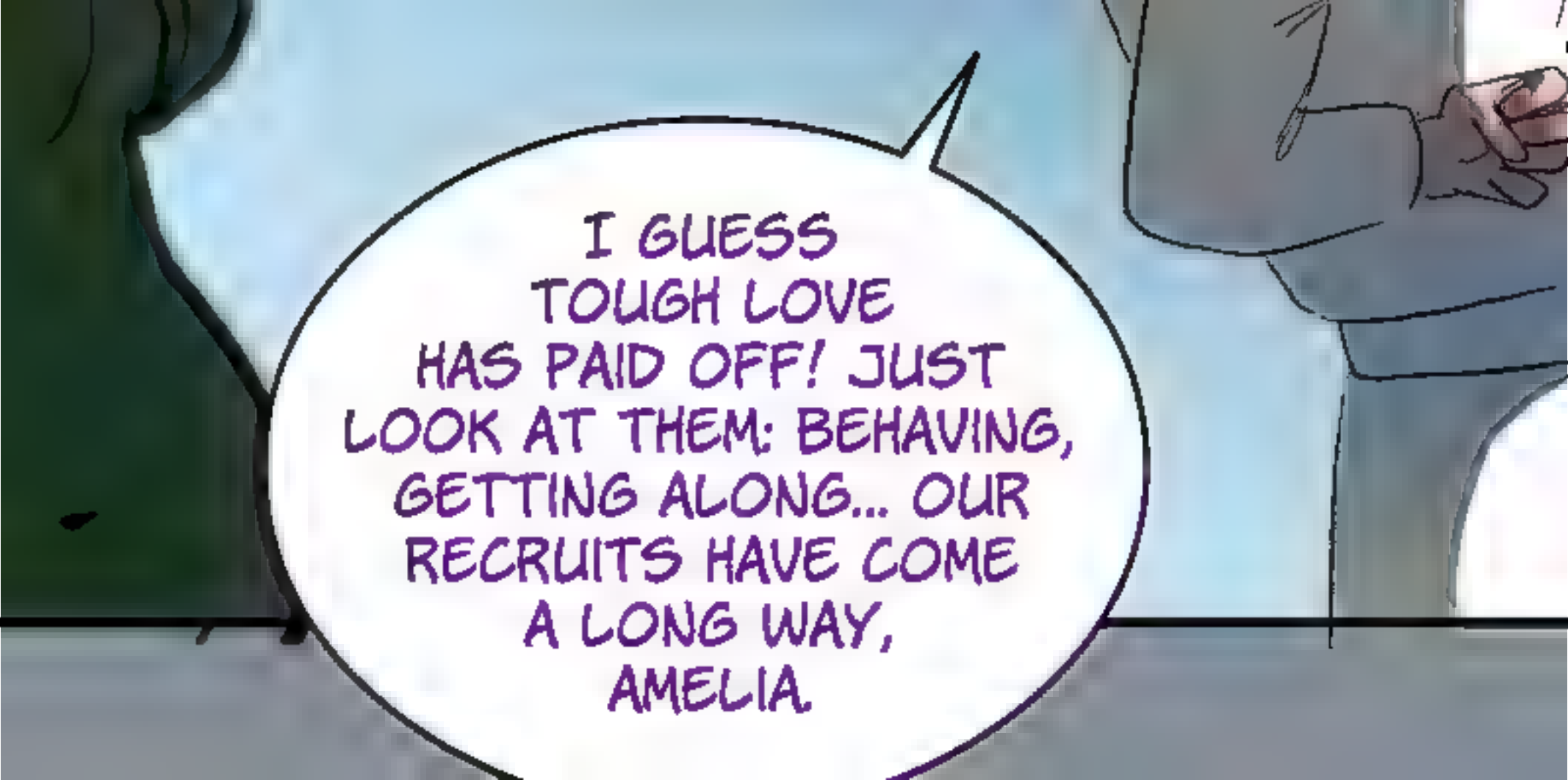
HUH,
I GUESS IT'S
EMPTY.
AWW,
POOR
IRO...

IRO


IRO?!

THAT'S

TOO BAD...
YOU EVEN USED
YOUR SERIOUS VOICE
AND EVERYTHING.
HEHE!


I GUESS TOUGH LOVE HAS PAID OFF! JUST LOOK AT THEM: BEHAVING, GETTING ALONG... OUR RECRUITS HAVE COME A LONG WAY, AMELIA.

AND
AMELIA?!

I BET
THIS IS HOW
IT FEELS TO
WATCH YOUR
KIDS GROW

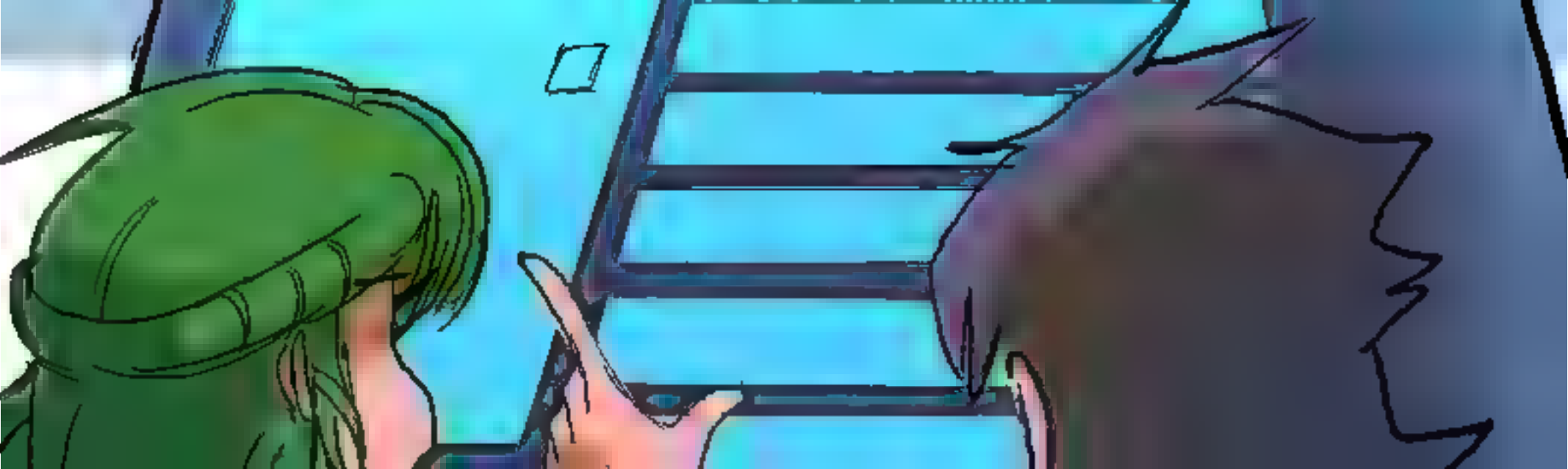
UP.

WELL...
PERHAPS WE'LL SOON KNOW FOR CERTAIN.

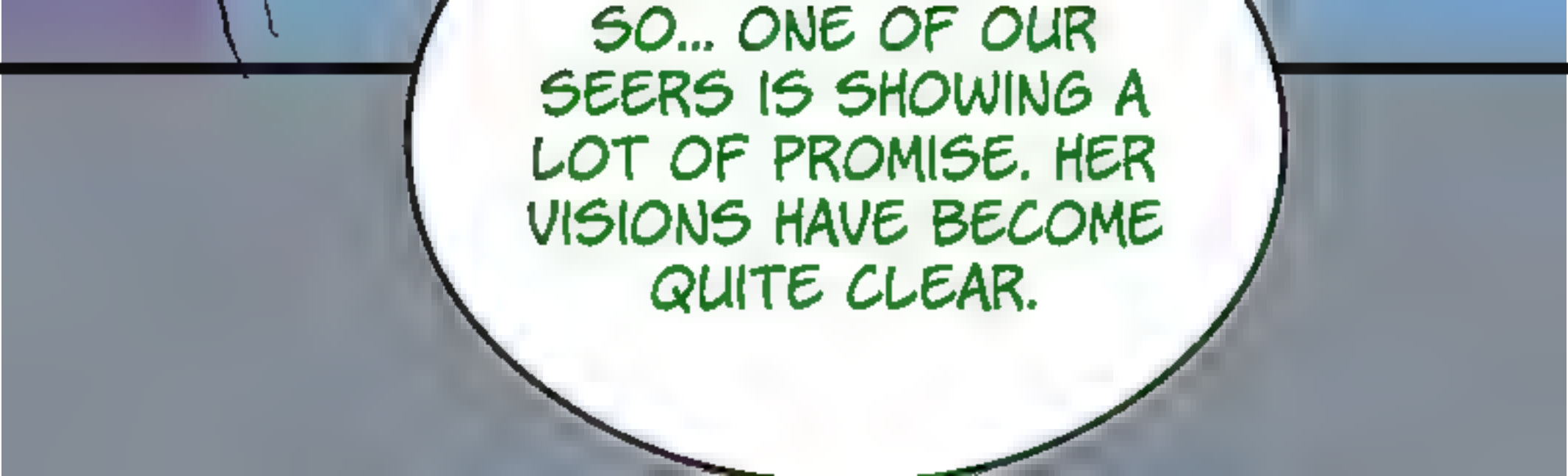
WHAT DO
YOU MEAN? DID

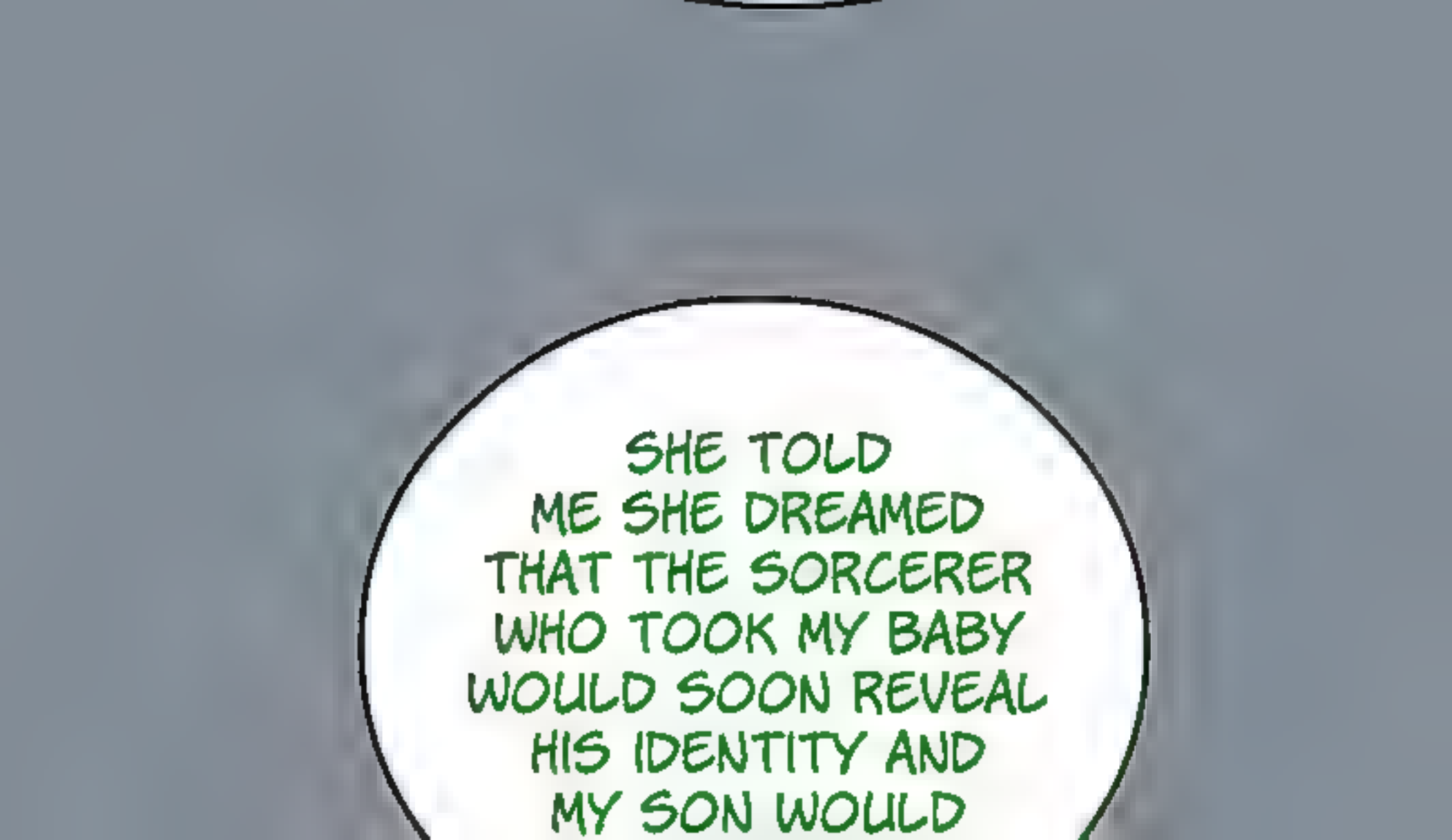
YOU GET A NEW LEAD?

VSC CANDIDATES FOR RECRUITMENT



I THINK


SO... ONE OF OUR SEERS IS SHOWING A LOT OF PROMISE. HER VISIONS HAVE BECOME QUITE CLEAR.


SHE TOLD
ME SHE DREAMED
THAT THE SORCERER
WHO TOOK MY BABY
WOULD SOON REVEAL
HIS IDENTITY AND
MY SON WOULD

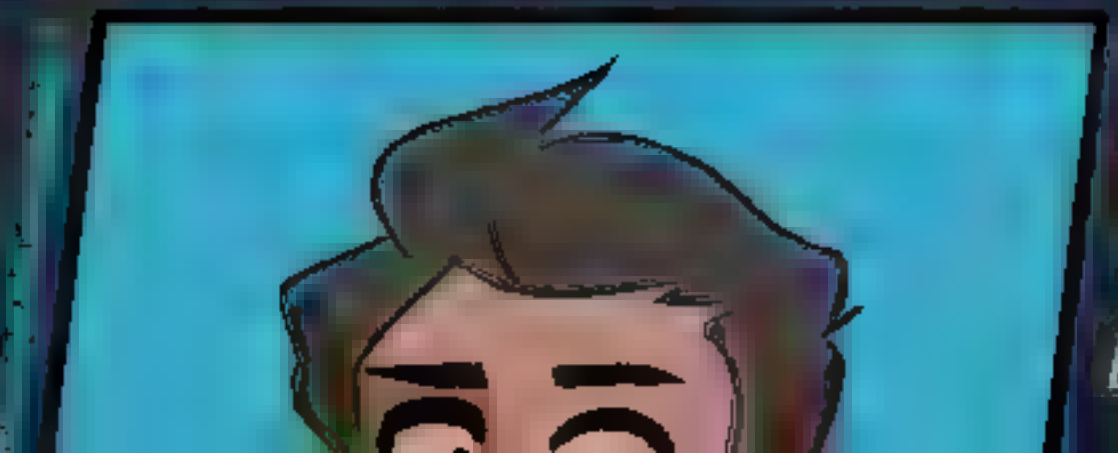
RETURN.
823
LOBETOR
Don Santiago
8991
IOD
Jérôme Sauvageot
Ramesh

ng Xiaotong
AND NOT A MOMENT LATER, OUR MONITORS DETECTED A REALITY BREACH IN 1950S MEXICO...

IT CAME
FROM THIS

MAN...

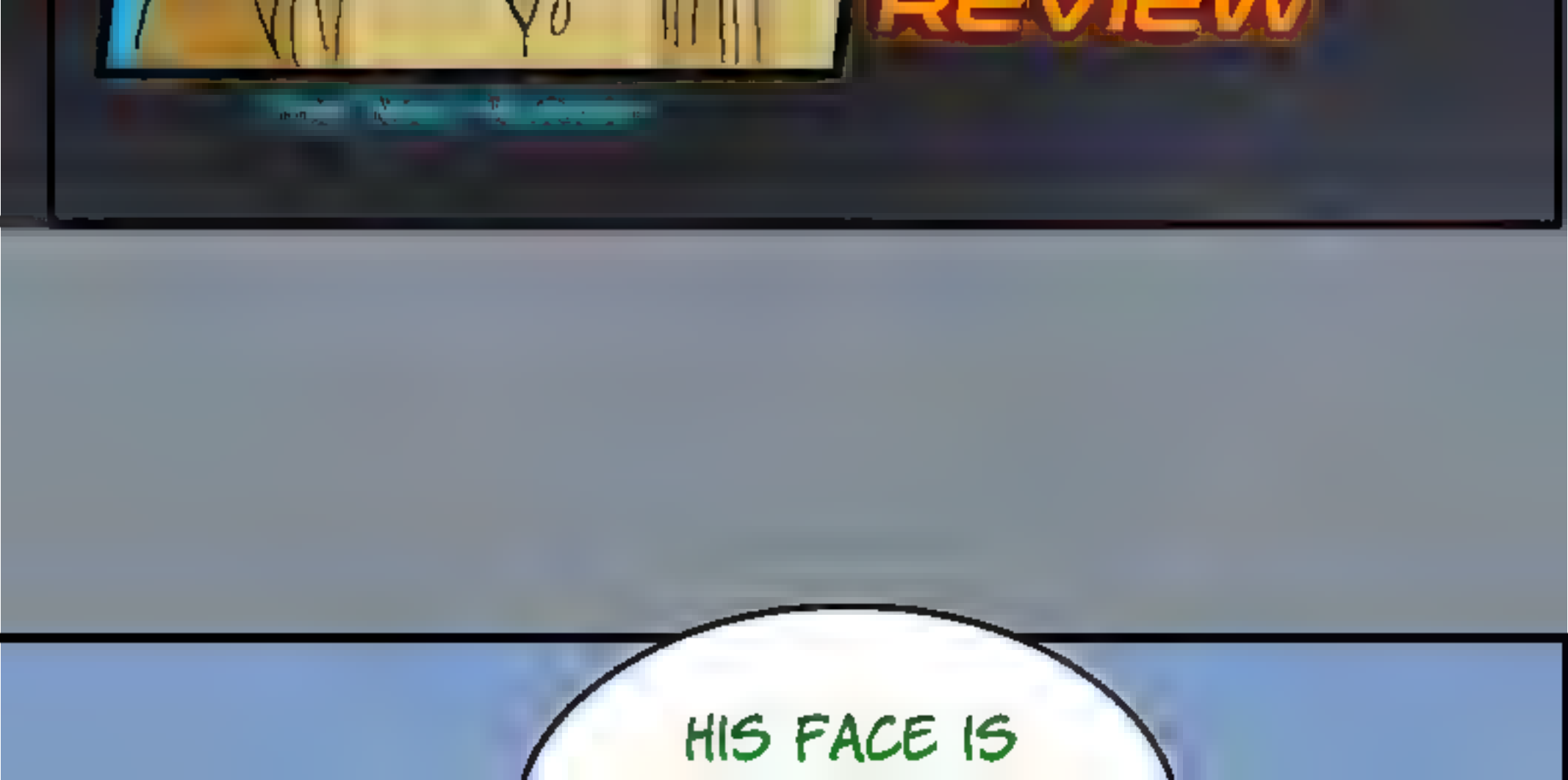
DON SANTIAGO

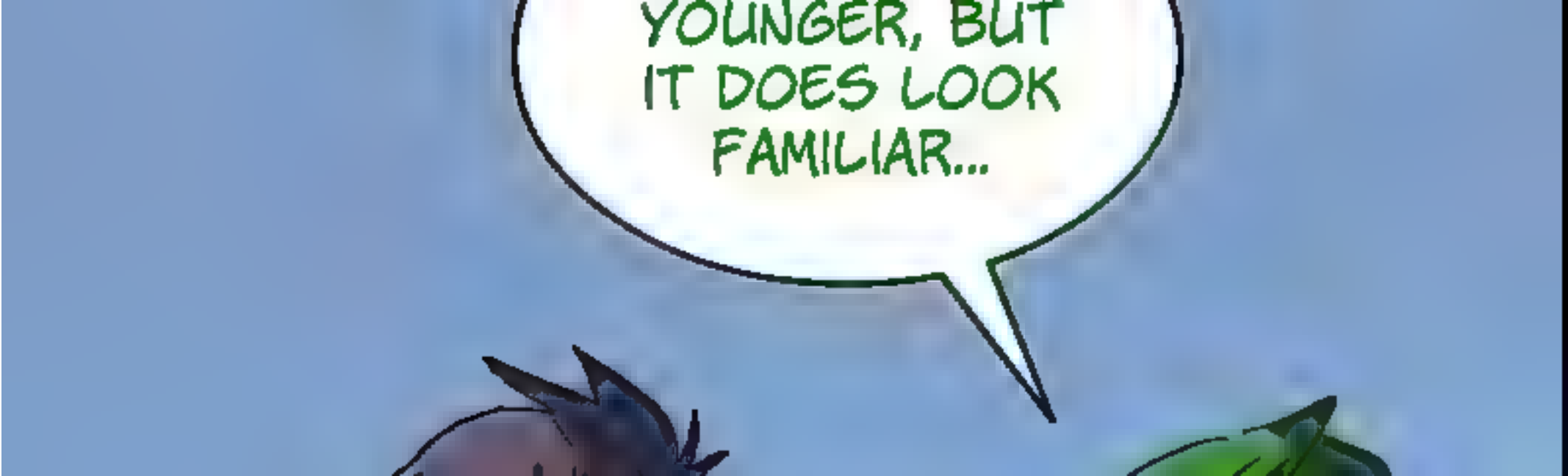


MEXICO 1950

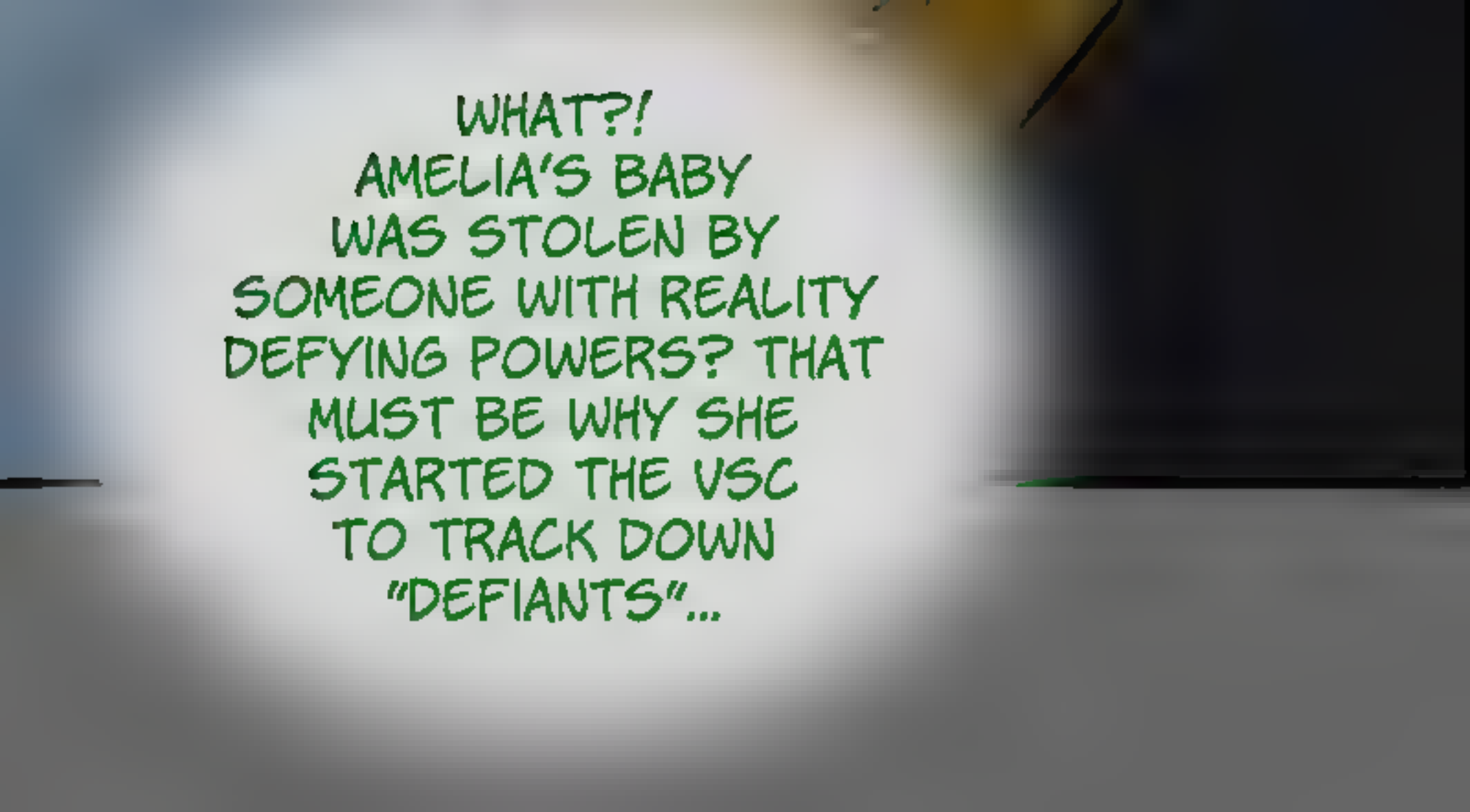
[24] INFORMATION

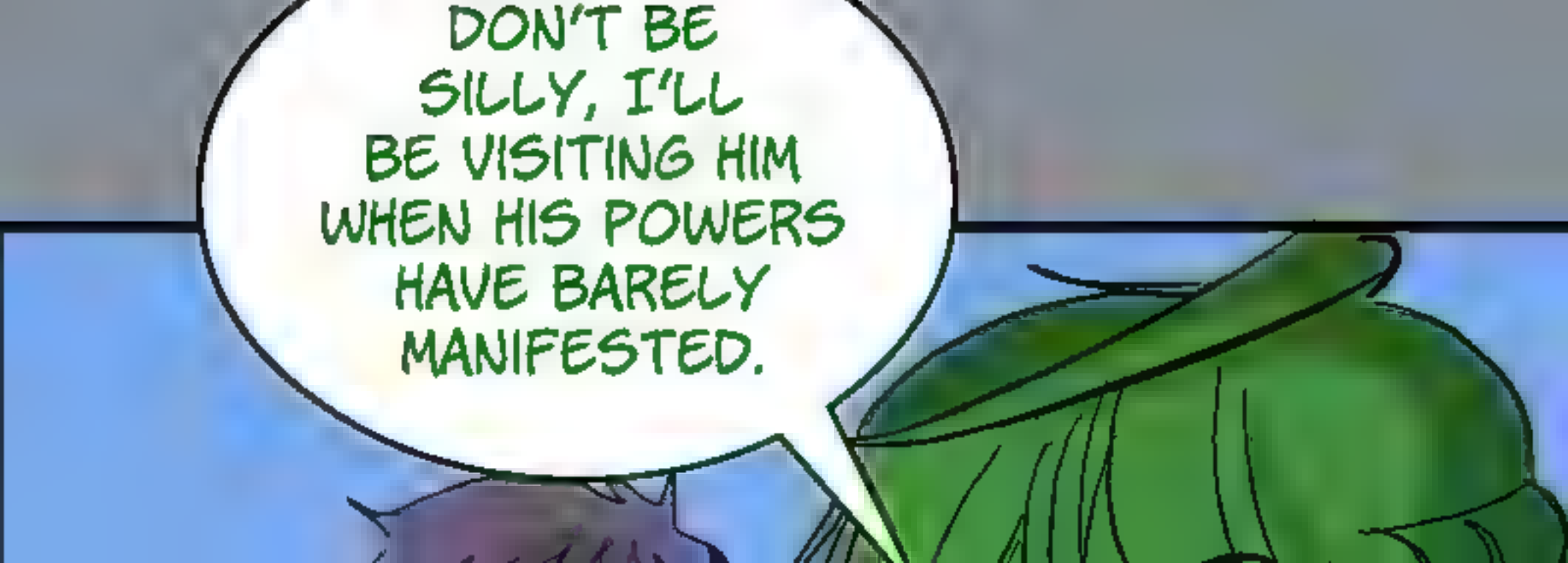
USES SONGS TO DICTATE
AND MODIFY PROPERTIES
OF REALITY
PENDING
REVIEW


REVIEW
HIS FACE IS


YOUNGER, BUT IT DOES LOOK FAMILIAR...

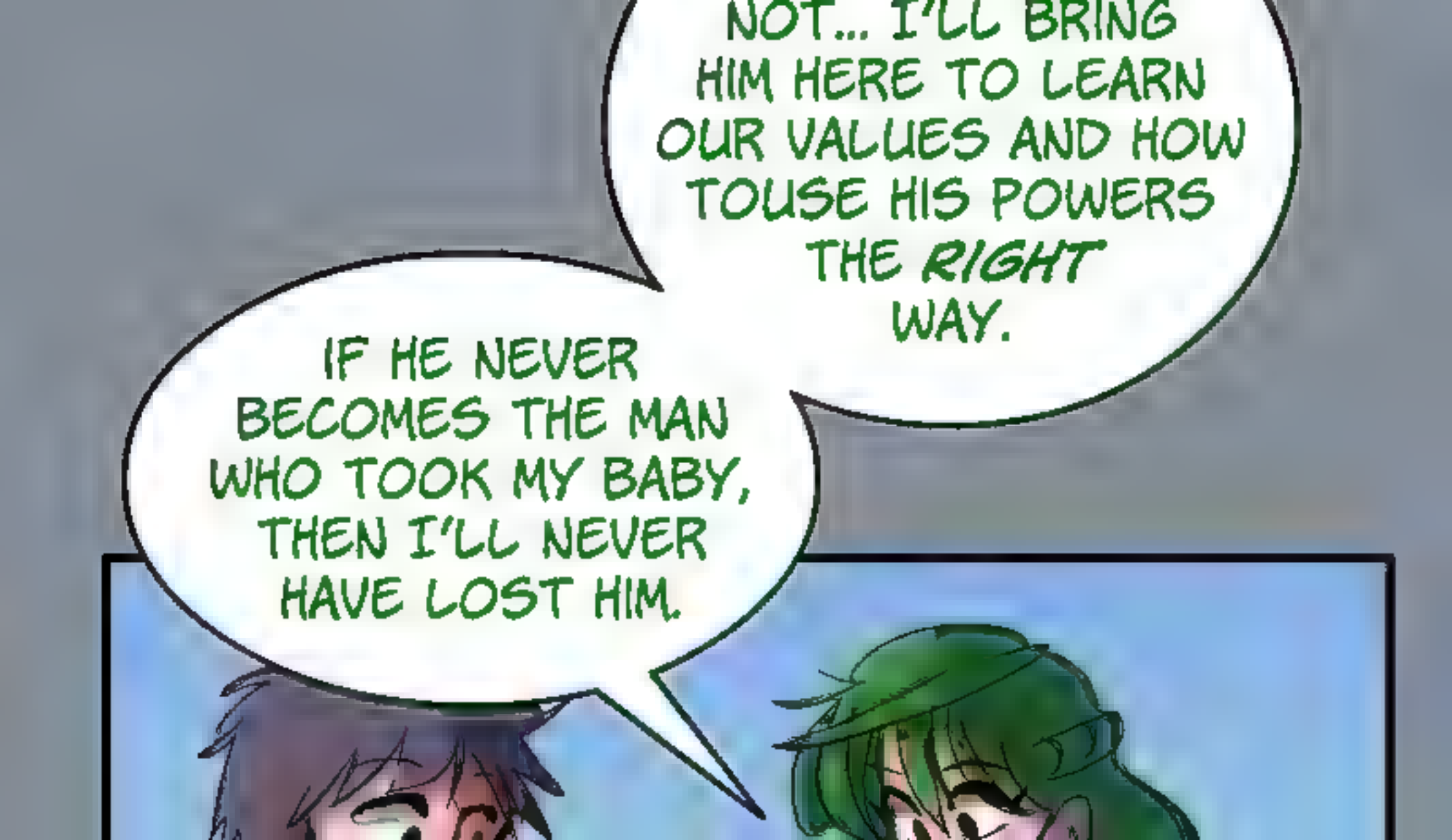
AMELIA,
IF THIS IS
THE DEFIANT WHO
TOOK YOUR BABY,
HE'S DANGEORUS.
YOU SHOULDN'T
GO ALONE.

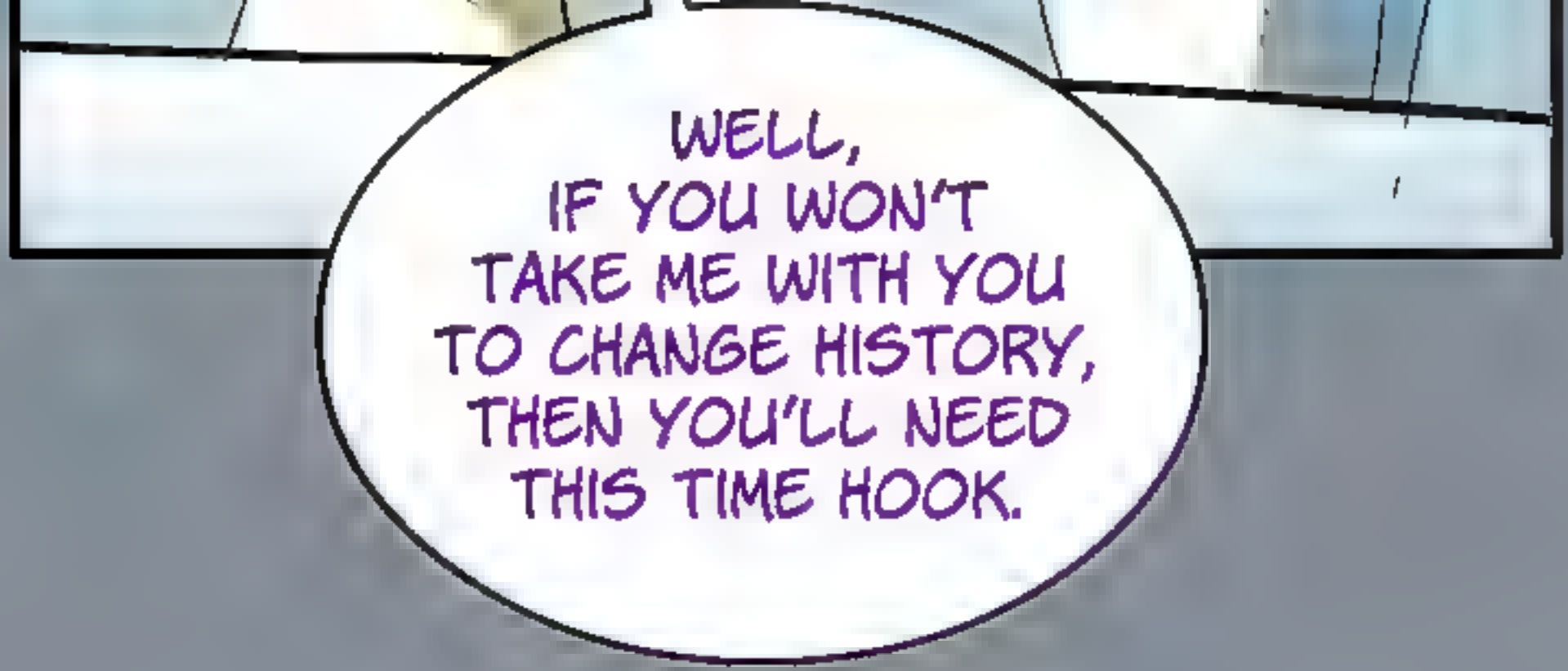

WHAT?!
AMELIA'S BABY
WAS STOLEN BY
SOMEONE WITH REALITY
DEFYING POWERS? THAT
MUST BE WHY SHE
STARTED THE VSC
TO TRACK DOWN
"DEFIANTS"...


DON'T BE SILLY, I'LL BE VISITING HIM WHEN HIS POWERS HAVE BARELY MANIFESTED.

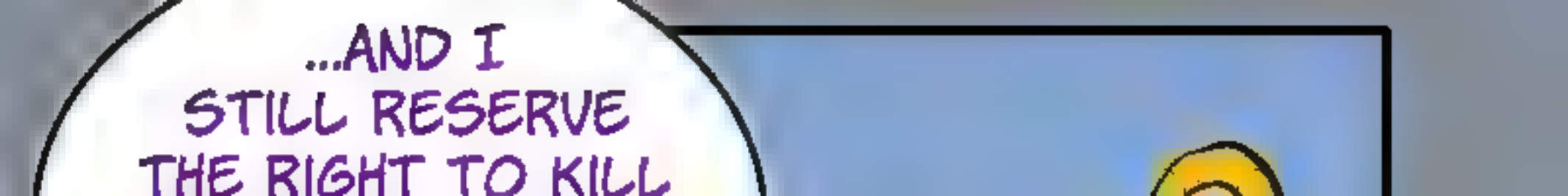
BUT IF HE IS THE GUY, WHAT WILL YOU DO? KILL HIM?
AMELIA

OF COURSE


NOT... I'LL BRING HIM HERE TO LEARN OUR VALUES AND HOW TOUSE HIS POWERS THE *RIGHT* WAY.
IF HE NEVER BECOMES THE MAN WHO TOOK MY BABY, THEN I'LL NEVER HAVE LOST HIM.


WELL,
IF YOU WON'T
TAKE ME WITH YOU
TO CHANGE HISTORY,
THEN YOU'LL NEED
THIS TIME HOOK.

...AND I STILL RESERVE THE RIGHT TO KILL



HIM IF YOUR PLAN
DOESN'T BRING
OUR SON BACK.

SMOOCH

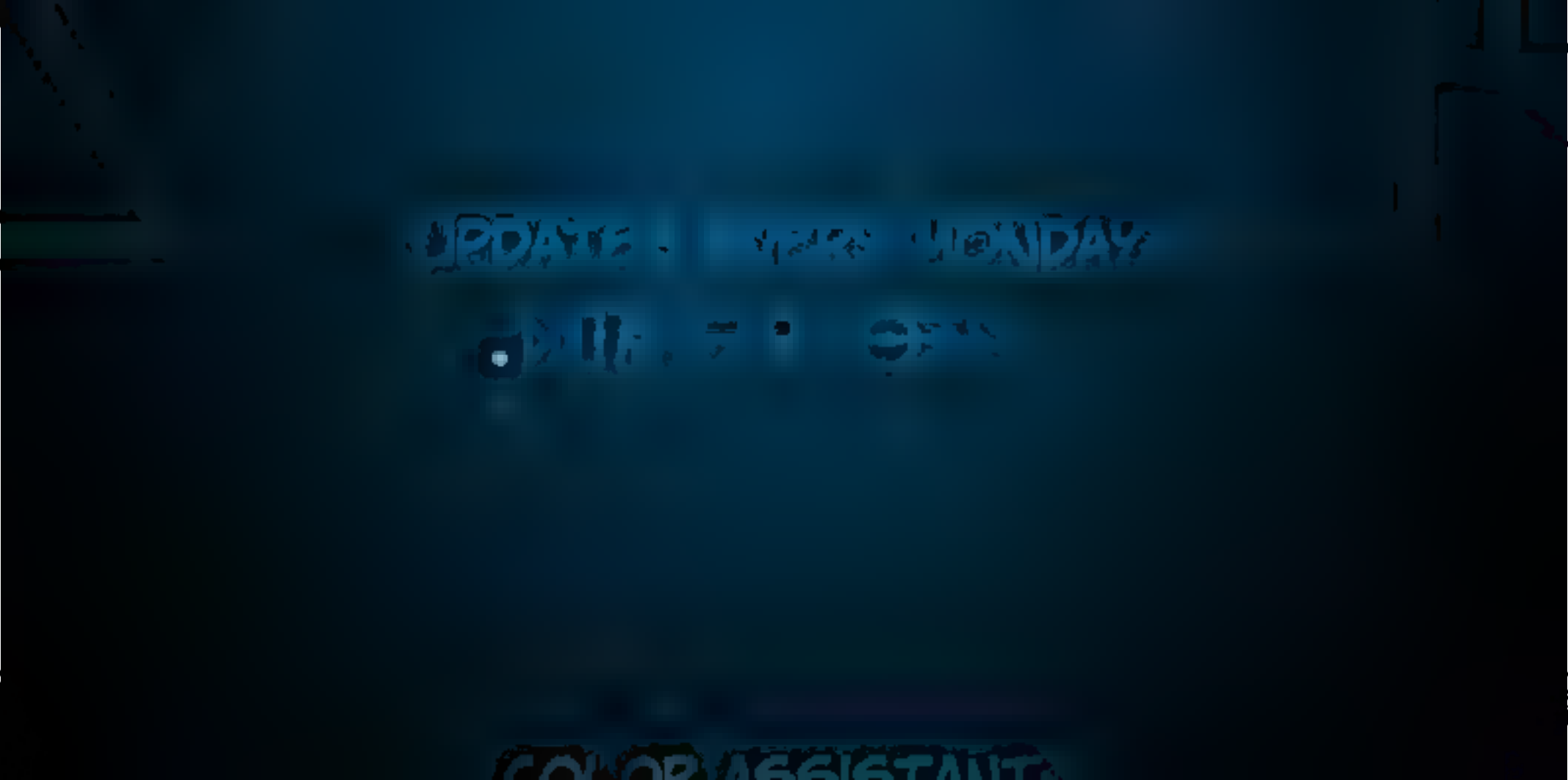
DEAL.

WISH

ME LUCK!

GOOD LUCK, DARLING.

RUIN OF
SWORDS



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